

[24 th March 1922]

I—cont.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—cont.

DEMAND XX—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" Mr. President, I beg leave to move that this House be pleased to grant a sum of 5.96 lakhs under Demand XX--Civil Veterinary Services."

Motion 606.

The following motion was not made :--

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :--

606. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,000 for travelling allowance by Rs. 1,600.*

Motion 607.

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—" Mr. President, Sir, I make the following motion :--

607. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for veterinary hospitals to be opened during the year.*

"I do this, Sir, with some fear and trembling. (Laughter.) I fear because the Veterinary department being a necessary adjunct of all civilized governments, I will be labelled as an uncivilized being for making a motion of this kind. I tremble because I may be treated to a lecture on rinderpest and cattle diseases in general. But I may assure this House that I have no special aversion for this Veterinary Department. I only wanted to place before this House a suspicion that I have—a suspicion mostly based on personal observation—that some of the veterinary hospitals, at any rate, are lying idle. If you go to any prominent place, Sir, these veterinary hospitals are sure to attract your attention with their big signboards, fine compound walls and very nicely white-washed buildings and enormous sheds that could accommodate even elephants. But I am hardly aware of any patients, equine, canine, bovine and ovine, coming to them. And you can see the veterinary doctor with his assinine (laughter) patience whiling away his time because he has no other work to do. I believe, Sir, that these veterinary hospitals are placed in wrong places. I think they ought to be more rural than urban. In these days of motor-cars I do not think veterinary hospitals situated in towns have much work. On the other hand, if they are placed in country places very near villages, I think they will be of greater use. If the hon. Minister for Development looks into the case and closes down those hospitals that are lying idle and opens up hospitals in places where they are really needed, I shall be very thankful to him. The second thing I wish to draw his attention to is the personnel of the Veterinary Department. I have come across men who are afraid to go near even dogs that are dying, who cannot approach a bull or a cow without a long stick in their hands. I have come across men who are afraid of a buffalo, and they leave all the work to the hospital servants and they do little work. I hope the hon. Minister will do something for improving the veterinary hospitals."

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—" I am extremely sorry, Sir, that the experience of my hon. friend with the Veterinary Department has been so unfortunate. I do not think, Sir, the suggestion for the

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closing down of hospitals can be seriously considered by this House. It is well known, and it needs no repetition from me, that ours is an agricultural province and cattle are the first consideration of a ryot. These hospitals are intended for the benefit of the cattle. The suggestion that we ought to locate the hospitals, as far as possible in country places, in rural areas, certainly deserves consideration, and I am perfectly willing to see what can be done in that direction. There are also sheds at these hospitals which have accommodation for a considerable number of horses and cattle. My hon. Friend said that some of them were places big enough for elephants. That is true in places where elephants have to be treated, in places like Rajahmundry, Polavaram or Ocanada, in the Gōdāvari district to which my hon. Friend belongs and where I know there are a number of elephants to be treated. When we consider that the value of these elephants may range from one thousand rupees to twenty thousands, I do not think it can seriously be contended that they should be closed down because they have got room enough for big elephants. Mr. Muniswami Nayudu—I do not find the hon. Member here—had been dinning into my ears that I should provide a hospital at Chittoor. I may submit also that there are other requests, for instance, from the Raja of Ramnad who I am sorry is not able to be present owing to a domestic bereavement. He was pressing upon me the need for more of these hospitals. As a matter of fact, I asked for six hospitals and since the Finance Department could not find funds, I reduced the number to three and still further, for the same reason, reduced it to one. The provision of Rs. 2,000 is meant for a single hospital and I am very sorry that we are not able to get more money and that all my attempts to secure more have failed. In these circumstances, I hope my hon. Friend will not press his motion for the reduction of the provision for a single hospital."

Mr. A. T. PALMER :—"Sir, the hon. the Minister for Development might call for statistics in support of the statement that the cases of these hospitals having patients are few and far between. In those cases, I think the hon Minister can close the hospitals without any fear. I wish that the Ministers that we have appointed from this House show more personality and display strength and do something good for the country. I do not want them to go into the old ruts but I wish them to chalk out new paths of procedure. I might also say, Sir, that these veterinary men may be asked to carry on experiments on breeding of animals and so on which are entrusted to a separate department. I have no desire to press this motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand XX was then put and granted *nem. con.*

DEMAND XXI—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The hon. Rai Bahadur K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU :—"I beg leave to move, Sir, for a grant of 6·81 lakhs under Demand XXI—Co-operative Societies."

Motion 608.

The following motion was not made :—

Mr. B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—

608. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,29,000 for 23 assistant registrars by Rs. 10,000.